



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

Contact: JP Tremblay
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
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Longtime Veterans Advocate Leo P. Burke Has Passed Away

It is with great sadness that the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) joins the family of Leo P. Burke, past Chairman of the California Veterans Board, in mourning his passing. Burke was 84 years old.

"On behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Leo P. Burke, who passed away last night," said Secretary Roger Brautigan. "We are saddened by his passing, but are thankful that he walked among us. We are forever grateful for his service to our country, our state, and our veterans. His service and sacrifices will not be forgotten. May he forever rest in peace."

Leo was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian as a member of the California Veterans Board. He was reappointed for two terms by Governor Pete Wilson and reappointed by Governor Gray Davis in 2002 and 2003. He was elected Chairman of the Veterans Board in November 1986 and served in that capacity through March 1991. Additionally, he was Chairman of the Governor's Commission of Veterans Homes appointed by Governor Gray Davis. The commission recommended that veterans homes be built in Los Angeles, Ventura, Lancaster, Fresno, and Redding.

In addition to his responsibilities on the California Veterans Board, he served for many years on the San Joaquin Delta Community College Board of Trustees. Prior to retirement, he served for 31 years as the Administrator of the Stockton Convention Center.

Leo served in the U.S. Marine Corps, was a veteran of World War II and served as State Commander and National Vice Commander of the American Legion. He also served as a member of the Disabled American Veterans Charities of San Joaquin County beginning in 1978 and had been appointed to the San Joaquin Fair Board by Governor Jerry Brown.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Burke are pending.

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Note to editors: This Veterans News and previous CDVA news releases, advisories, and newsletters are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via email from Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.